

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 AGR-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07
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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5195
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

UNCLAS LONDON 05971

USEEC

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, UK
SUBJECT: UK TRADE IN TEXTILES/CLOTHING IMPROVES

1. IN 1977, THE UK WAS ALMOST IN BALANCE IN ITS OVERALL
TEXTILE AND CLOTHING TRADE FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1973.
ACCORDING TO FIGURES PUBLISHED BY THE TEXTILE STATISTICS
BUREAU, THE DEFICIT WAS ONLY SIX MILLION POUNDS, COMPARED
TO A DEFICIT OF 136 MILLION POUNDS IN 1976 AND 144
MILLION POUNDS IN 1975.

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2. THE IMPROVEMENT RESULTS PRIMARILY FROM A LARGE IN-
CREASE IN CLOTHING EXPORTS DURING THE LAST HALF OF 1977.
EXPORTS ROSE FROM 247 MILLION POUNDS IN THE FIRST HALF
TO 352 MILLION POUNDS IN THE SECOND HALF, WHILE IMPORTS
OF CLOTHING ROSE AT A MUCH SLOWER RATE.

3. OTHER MAJOR TRENDS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

(A) THE OVERALL BALANCE OF TRADE IN THE CLOTHING SECTOR REMAINED IN DEFICIT BY 1 68 MILLION POUNDS, BUT THIS WAS LARGELY COVERED BY THE NORMAL SURPLUS IN THE TEXTILE ACCOUNT.

(B) IN THE SENSITIVE TEXTILE AREA, IMPORTS AND EXPORTS BOTH INCREASED 22 PERCENT OVER 1976 FIGURES.

(C) THE RATE OF INCREASE IN THE GROWTH OF TEXTILE IMPORTS AND TEXTILE EXPORTS DECREASED IN BOTH CASES BY APPROXIMATELY A THIRD BETWEEN 1976 AND 1977.

4. FOLLOWING ARE UK TRADE FIGURES IN TEXTILE AND CLOTHING FOR YEARS 1973-77 (IN MILLION POUNDS):

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
IMPORTS					
TEXTILES	556	750	732	975	1,196
CLOTHING	333	402	505	683	767
EXPORTS					
TEXTILES	707	892	828	1,110	1,359
CLOTHING	179	230	265	412	598
TRADE BALANCE					
TEXTILES	#151	#141	#96	#135	#162
CLOTHING	-154	-172	-240	-271	-168
TOTAL	-3	-31	-144	-136	-6

BREWSTER

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